

Alexander the Great Archaeology Date: 11 / 15 / 25

KENT BRAMLETT - La Sierra Univ.

- Archaeology in Afghanistan shows a cultural mixture in Christ's time (east and west) due to Alexander.
- Viktor Sarianidi wrote "The Golden Hoard of Bactria" right before the Taliban took over about this mixture of cultures
- From ages 13 - 16, Alexander tutored by Aristotle (the Western science and philosophy of the day)
- Alexander's Persian campaign (in his 20s) changed the world
- Greek mercenaries were in the Persian Empire, helping to make the conquest possible
- Ephesus and Sardis surrendered to Alexander
- One of the most famous mosaics of history is of the Battle of Issus (Alexander v. Darius)
- Siege of Tyre (332 BC) - predicted by the prophets. Alexander's greatest determination
- Library of Alexandria may have had 700,000 volumes



- Battle of the Hydaspes (BC 326) opened up Hellenistic culture to India
- All cities named after Alexander were essentially Greek colonies (Antioch, Alexandria in Egypt, etc)
- The Maccabean period is Israel caught in a 100 year war between the Seleucids and Ptolemies. The issue for Israel was participation in Hellenism
- The Septuagint means the 70. What began as a cultural update became an intellectual hinge point of history
- In Jesus's time, the Indian Ocean was called the Erythraean Sea
- The cultural exchange was unintended consequences of Alexander's ambitions
- Our age mirrors the cultural exchange of Alexander's time
- Daniel Coats personal thought: God started preparing the world for Christ's coming three centuries before. Therefore, we should expect God's preparation for Christ's Second Coming to occur over centuries. We'd also expect it to be inadvertent humanly speaking

- ANDREA BERLIN - Boston University
- Five components of celebrity in Ancient Greece
- contests and winners (Olympics, etc.)
  - heroes and stories (exalted in imagery)
  - recognition via attributes
  - enduring glory via epic (Homer)
  - ascendance via achievement
  - The apples of the Hesperides represented the far ends of the earth
  - A hero's ultimate goal was immortality
  - Kleos meant celebrity in Greek
  - Alexander the Great sought to embody these elements
  - Alexander established mints so he could be on the coins!
  - Daniel Coats personal thought: In a culture in which achieving immortality is the ultimate heroic, Christ rising from the dead makes Him the ultimate hero. Christians would be seen as following Christ into heroism through our eternal life (more than conquerors - Greek "nike")



Date: / /  
JESSICA NITSCHKE - Stellenbosch Univ.  
The Alexander sarcophagus in Sidon  
provides a rare period likeness of Alexander.  
It is a beautiful work of art (temple in  
miniature)

• Daniel Coats personal thought: Many of the  
Greek gods on the sarcophagus had  
supposed resurrections. The difference  
with Christ is that it is set in history  
(time and place), with many witnesses.  
Alexander's conquest of Tyre and Sidon  
at least partially fulfilled Old Testament  
prophecies of the fall of one of the Babylon-  
type world systems of antiquity. The  
Babylons of the past are defeated by  
a new version of Babylon. But the final  
Babylon will be replaced by Christ's  
eternal kingdom.

Another aside... had Alexander lived a  
longer life, would he have discovered the  
Americas?

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RACHEL KOUSSER - City Univ. of New York  
• Alexander was fascinated by Persian culture and  
recognized its achievements and contributions  
• Alexander probably looked like a Macedonian  
army officer - relatively simple and non-regal  
• Despite having unparalleled political power, Alexander  
could adjust his cultural viewpoints as needed  
• Alexander himself became a pattern for  
the Romans to emulate. Pompey, who ruled  
right before Christ's birth, patterned after Alexander.  
Daniel Coats personal thought: Alexander  
incorporated the traits of previous kingdoms,  
reminding me of Daniel 7:12. While Daniel  
writes of a succession of empires, in some ways  
all the empires of the past still live on  
today in various cultural aspects, incorporated  
into today's superpowers. Christ's Second  
Advent destroys the entire image of Daniel 2.  
He won't borrow from others like the conquerors  
of history, but Christ will do what He did at  
creation - ex nihilo (out of nothing) for the new  
heavens and new earth.



CYNTHIA FINLAYSON - Archaeologist

Date: / /

- Why does Alexander deserve the term "the great"? Because had he not lived, we would be living a different lifestyle today. Great doesn't imply a moral judgment
- Thrace was a horse society, the source of Alexander's cavalry
- Alexander's father Phillip was assassinated in 336 B.C., beginning Alexander's decade of ambitious conquest
- The cult of Alexander after his death perhaps similar to Elvis
- We still have the cremated remains of Alexander's father
- Alexander's father established one of the first comprehensive school systems (learning and sports)

Daniel Coats personal thought: Alexander and many figures in history may be "the great," but only God is good in a moral sense (Mark 10:18). Had Alexander or others not lived, our lives would be different. But had Jesus not lived, our lives would be meaningless.

THERESA SHAW - Archaeologist

Date: / /

- The Greco-Romans would make pilgrimages to Alexander's tomb and some predicted Alexander's return
- Ancient coins were both handmade and mass produced (anvil and hammer)
- The very first coins were from Lydia, Turkey in 590 BC, and featured a lion (in Daniel's time)
- The lion and bull were very old symbols in Asia Minor
- The next coins were Persian (the Darius)
- Athens minted gold Staters and silver Tetradrachms (is this the etymology of the surname in Stater Bros.?)
- Alexander's coins were used to propagandize the Persian populace
- Zeus was on the reverse side of Alexander's coinage

Daniel Coats personal thought: Humanity is hard-wired to worship. Even in secular political systems, the tombs of figures like Lenin, Mao or Alexander become religious shrines. Jesus isn't unique in believers expecting His return. But only Christ's historical resurrection creates a credible claim. And only Christ deals with personal eschatology.







